

Appl. No. 09/802,291

Amdt. dated April 15, 2005

Reply to Office Action of January 26, 2005

PATENTREMARKS/ARGUMENTSAmendments

The claims are modified in the amendment. More specifically, claims 1, 12 and 17 have been amended. Therefore, claims 1-5, 8-22 are present for examination. No new matter is added by these amendments, which are fully supported by the specification. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended.

Interview

On April 7 and April 13, 2005, the Examiner granted interviews to discuss the rejections presented by the Office. No agreement was sought nor was any agreement reached as these were just courtesy calls to discuss possible amendments. The Applicant appreciates the granting of this interview and the preparation done beforehand by the Examiner.

35 U.S.C. §102 & 103 Rejections

The Office Action has rejected claims 1, 3, 5, 8-9, 11-12, 14, 16-17 and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the cited portions of the *Alpha Architecture Handbook* (hereinafter "Alpha"). Further, the Office Action has rejected claims 2, 4, 10, 15 and 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the cited portions of the *Alpha Architecture Handbook* (hereinafter "Alpha") in view of the cited portions of U.S. Patent No. 4,833,599 to Colwell et al. (hereinafter "Colwell").

The amended claims require that a single compare instruction produces an output operand having at least three states. In contrast, the Alpha Handbook illustrates an output operand that corresponds to one of only two possible states for any given compare instruction. For example, following the Alpha CMPTLE "less than or equal to" compare instruction, the Alpha returns any value that is either a true (float 2.0) or false (integer zero) answer to that inquiry. In contrast, the claimed invention could test for at least two of less than, equal to, greater than, and no valid relationship all in a single compare instruction and return an output

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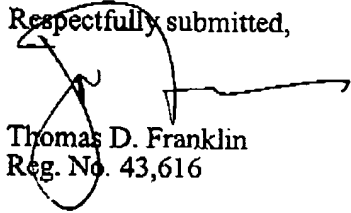
operand corresponding to at least three states (e.g., -1, 0, 1, or NAN). Thus, while one embodiment of the claimed invention can test for at least three of less than, equal to, greater than, and no valid relationship in a single instruction that produces a single value, the Alpha would require multiple instructions with multiple results to test for these same relationships.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,


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